



The LORD appeared to Abram and said:
"To your descendants
I will give this land."
So Abram built an altar there
to the Lord
who had appeared to him.

Genesis 12:7

Save The Date



Dedication of Our New Church

Saturday, October 19

2:30pm

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God's Presence in the Altar and Ambo

Each day we draw closer and closer to the dedication of our new church! By the time you read this article the pews will have been delivered along with the ambo, but most importantly the altar. In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, we are told that the "Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian lives." Sunday after Sunday we come to church to celebrate the Mass. Do we ever really stop and think about the altar itself? Why is it important? Why does the priest and his ministers reverence the altar during the entrance procession? Why is incense sometimes used around the altar? I think it's important to know these answers before I tell you more about our altar. Did you know that the

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church teaches that the altar is Christ? Traditionally altars are made of stone. St. Paul speaks of Christ as the spiritual rock. Saints Peter and Paul both refer to Christ as the Cornerstone. Jesus even refers to himself in Luke's gospel as "the stone that the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone." In the First

Letter of Peter, chapter 2, Christ himself is the living stone and we are called to be living stones ourselves. Christ Is the precious Cornerstone that was laid for us!

Now take a moment and consider the placement of the altar. The altar is the natural focal point of the sanctuary and is to be freestanding to allow the priest to walk around it easily and Mass is to be celebrated facing the people. The altar is a place of sacrifice, a place in which we offer up something to God. Jesus offered his body on the altar of the cross

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and that offering is now made present on the Church's altar today. Jesus is the "gift" being offered on the altar, but He makes it clear that the altar makes the gift sacred; you certainly would not offer a sacrifice on an altar less dignified than the sacrifice itself. That makes Jesus (Who sanctifies) both the gift and the altar.

So now that you know a little more about WHY the altar is so important and sacred, let's talk about ours! The three largest pieces of sacred furniture, the altar, ambo and baptismal font are all



Architect's rendering of our new altar.

created with the same, matching marble. The color of the marble is called Monaco Grey and it's a polished marble that is quarried all the way from Turkey. The altar is approximately 3.5 feet tall and 7.5 feet wide. The structure of the altar is wood and then the marble will in-case the entire altar. There are three works of art on the front of the altar, oil paint on wood panels. Two of these pieces are of a geometric pattern, measure 18 x 22 and will be on the front left and right

sides. Directly in the middle of the altar will be an oil on wood image of the triumphant Lamb of God, measuring 27 x 22. The artist that has been commissioned to do the artwork on the altar is Ruth Strickland, the same artist who is creating our Transfiguration Mural.

I mentioned earlier in this article about the 3 large pieces of Liturgical furniture. Sandy Gagnon has previously written about our baptismal font, you've just read about the altar and now I'll finish this article with the ambo! *(The pictures of the ambo included here were taken while it is under construction)*



The central focus of the area in which the word of God is proclaimed during the liturgy is the ambo. The design and placement of the ambo should reflect the dignity and nobility of the saving Word and draws the attention of those present to the proclamation of the word. The General Introduction to the Lectionary recommends that the design of the altar and ambo bear a "harmonious and close relationship" to

another in order to emphasize the close relationship between Word and Eucharist. As I said earlier, the altar, ambo and baptismal font will all be created with a wooden frame and then Monaco Grey marble laid upon it. There are six wooden panels on the ambo that will have painted art and the wooden panels will be framed with Lemurian Blue marble. Four of the panels are 24x12 and will be depictions of the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The center 24x12 panel will be a resurrection scene with Jesus and his disciples. The final panel will be a geometric pattern that ties all the panels on the altar and ambo together. (It will be a common "theme" throughout the art.)





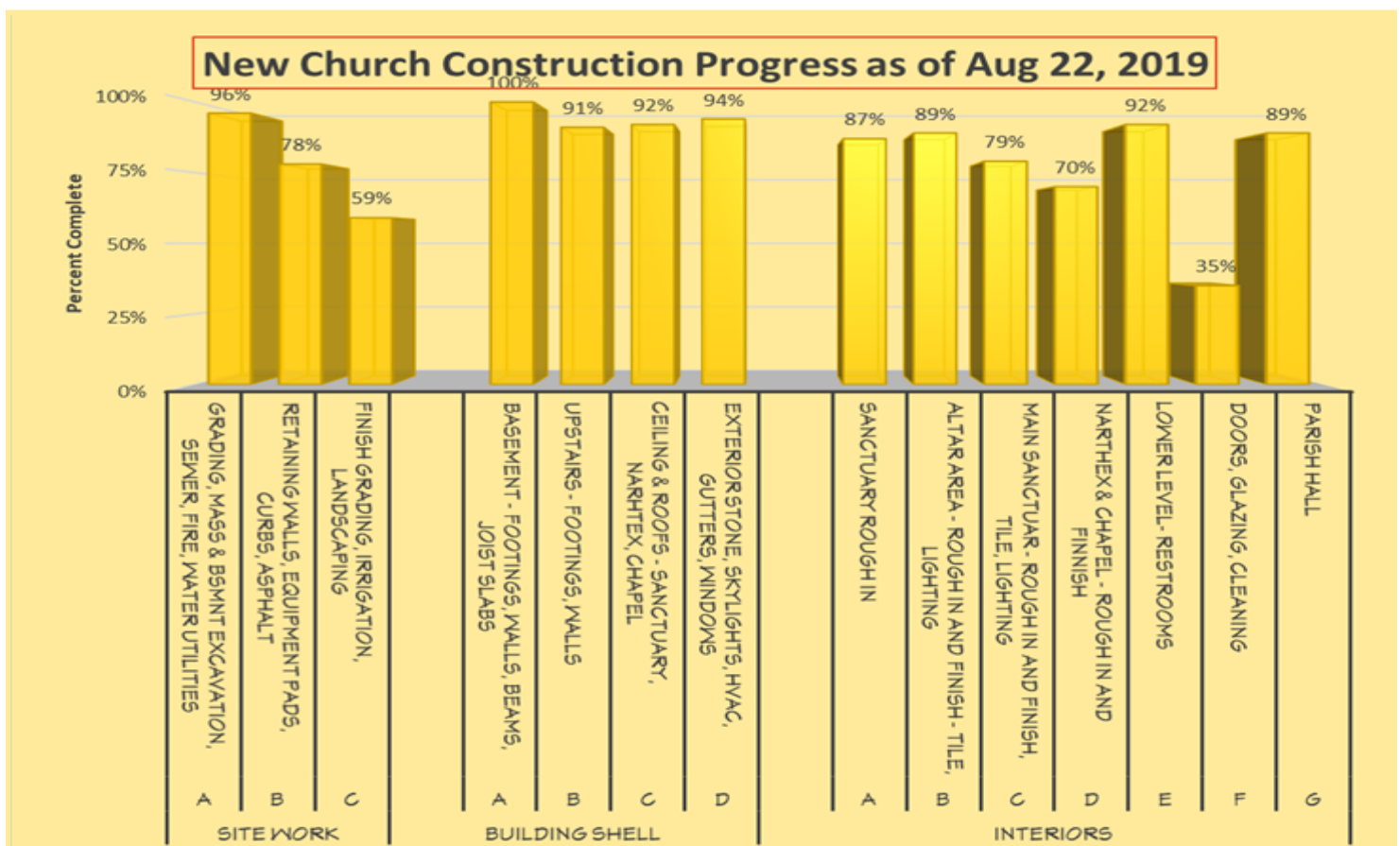
God's Presence in the Altar and Ambo (con't)

A new feature on this ambo is the ability to electronically raise and lower the stand, bringing the scripture closer to the person proclaiming the Word. All of the painted artwork in the new church, the mural, altar and ambo is by Ruth Stricklan and we are so excited! One point I want to make CRYSTAL CLEAR, the art on the altar and ambo will NOT be completed in time for dedication on October 19th. The temporary panels used will imitate faux marble. We don't want to rush our artist.

Stay tuned for our next addition of New Church News. I will walk you through our Dedication Mass which is October 19th at 2:30 PM so that you may have a better understanding of some of the rituals that will be taking place. God Bless!

Daniel A. Baker

Director of Liturgy and Music



WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE OLD WORSHIP SPACE

It may surprise many that the Catholic Church does not have a formal ceremony for the decommissioning of a worship space / sanctuary. There are steps that must be followed before the doors are locked but there is not a liturgical rite per se. Therefore, we wish that as many parishioners who wish to take part in saying farewell to the old church be given the opportunity to do so.



The Trinity Window

The last Mass to be said in the old church will be the 8:15 am Mass on Friday October 18th. Fr. Mike will lead us as we say goodbye to the place which has been meant so much to so many people for the last 40 years. We understand that many parishioners will not be able to make a morning weekday Mass. That is why we are also planning farewell Masses on the weekend of October 12 and 13. These will not be grandiose affairs but neither are they solemn mournful occasions. It is like a family that has outgrown its current house and needs to move to a bigger one. Yes there are good memories and symbols, such as our stained glass windows, which we will cherish but the promise of the future calls us to venture forth.

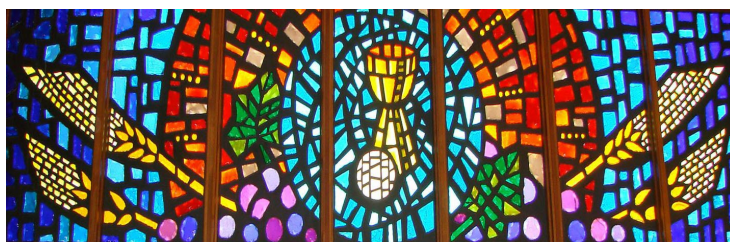


Assumption and Coronation of Mary Window

At the town hall meeting on July 27, Fr. Mike announced that the old sanctuary will be closed once we open our new church. Physically it will be mothballed so to speak and it will not be allowed to deteriorate but no activity will be taking place in it. The narthex will continue to be used for food collections etc.

The social hall will also continue to be used by various groups within the parish. No decision has been made regarding how best to utilize the old worship space. We must pay down our debt before we can realistically make such plans. That is why our next capital campaign is needed.

Please continue to honor your pledges for the "Grounded in Faith" Capital Campaign until the end of 2019. We hope you will find it in your heart and budget to pledge for the "Living our Legacy" campaign which kicks off soon.



The Eucharist Window